access to better Knowledge and practices that will translate into better care for the HIV patients at these ART centers.

(c) The infrastructure and necessary equipment like telecommunications bridge, polycom cameras etc have been received from University of New Mexico, USA and installed. The staff at MAMC has been trained. The initial seven sites identified to be linked up with this COE and ART centres at Indore, Behrampur, Raipur, Burla, Darbhanga, Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital Delhi and Jammu. The project is likely to start in next 2-3 months time.

After evaluation of outcome from this pilot, expansion to other Centres of Excellence and ART centers will be considered.

Death of children due to diarrhoea

1320. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 1.5 million children under five die of diarrhoea every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the funds allocated and utilized to stop such deaths; and

(d) the precautionary measures being taken in future to stop such deaths permanently?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, as per the Report on causes of death in India 2001-2003, about 1.5 million child deaths (0–4 yrs) occur every year in the country. Diarrhoeal deaths account for 13.8% of the total deaths in this age group.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no specific budget for diarrhoeal diseases. States are provided flexibility under NRHM to utilise the budget allocated as per their need.

Government of India is implementing the Management and Control of Diarrhoeal Disease under its Child Health programme, where cases of diarrhoea are provided with ORS and Zinc at health facilities and during home visits through ASHAs and ANMs.

Behaviour Change Communications is also being implemented as part of Information Education and Communication (IEC) to bring about awareness on diarrhoea and other diseases.

An Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP) is being implemented by the National Institute of Communicable Disease (NICD), Government of India to strengthen surveillance activities and to promote early detection of outbreak and to institute appropriate action for prevention and control of communicable diseases including Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases (ADD).